

Canceled 'Full House' has little effect on Olsen twins

Mary-Kate and Ashley won't have to hit the unemployment lines — or the school cafeteria lines for that matter — now that "Full House" has been canceled.

The 8-year-old Olsen twins, who have been television stars literally since birth, will be moving on to a new ABC series currently planned for the 1996-'97 season. No one is quite sure what the show will be about, but producers are scurrying around trying to come up with an idea that will keep their fans happy.

In the meantime, the girls are expected to star in a feature film from Warner Bros. and a line of home entertainment products that should net them more than a pretty penny.

Diverse actor

■ When you talk about acting versatility, be sure to put John Goodman near the top of the list.

The actor, who plays that rather slovenly Dan Conner on TV's ever-popular "Roseanne," has portrayed such diverse characters as legendary baseball great Babe Ruth, legendary Louisiana governor Huey P. "The Kingfish" Long, and legendary granite-head Fred Flintstone.

Now he's going to give Shakespeare a try during his coming hiatus from television. Goodman will star in a production of "Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2," a compilation of William Shakespeare's plays, at San Diego's Old Globe Theater.

The two tomes, compiled by Dakin Matthews, will be seen as part of the Lowell Davis Festival Theater held each summer in the seaside community. Goodman appeared at the New York Shakespeare Festival early in his career, and says he's anxious to see if he still has the right stuff.

Insight

■ ABC's Jeff Greenfield knew what some listeners probably were thinking during his homily this week at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas.

"Here's another network guy who doesn't understand the marketplace, who has never met a payroll, telling me to take off a show that gets a 28

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Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen
Starred in 'Full House'

percent share in the afternoon. In a pig's ear," he envisioned some of them saying.

In his speech, Greenfield — ABC's media correspondent — blasted talk and tabloid shows. He said execs "should drop the pretext of wondering why people are hostile toward TV," and also blame it for a host of societal ills.

No, Greenfield said, he doesn't buy arguments that TV caused the sexual revolution or is to blame for violence. Still, broadcasters can't blame viewers for thinking that when they see daily talk shows featuring a "parade of dysfunctional horrors and leering hosts and audiences who were last seen crowding around the guillotine in Paris 200 years ago."

"I'm not saying all TV should look like PBS," Greenfield said. But stations need more of a sense of shame — "an undervalued emotion and sentiment."

Cuts hurt networks

■ Cuts to PBS are bad not only for lovers of "Sesame Street" and "Frontline" but also for ABC, CBS and NBC, says PBS president Ervin Duggan.

In a speech this week in New York, Duggan said public TV stations may be forced to air commercials as a way to re-

coup lost federal funds, and that would lure ad dollars and audiences from the Big Three.

And if some public TV stations die, upstart ventures like FOX, WB, UPN and interactive companies will take their place on the dial — also bad news for long-established networks.

To head off such results from the "ruining" of PBS, Duggan said, "I think an activist stance is probably called for by people in both the cable industry and commercial broadcasters" to save public TV.

Postponed

■ ABC has postponed rolling out its "Home Improvement" spinoff, "Buddies" — the second time this spring it has ditched plans to introduce a new show.

Last month, ABC delayed "Bringing Up Jack" until summer. "Buddies" producer Matt Williams says he's recasting the role played by Jim Breuer, because his style of comedy didn't mesh with co-star David Chapelle's. "Buddies" was to premiere Tuesday at 9:30 p.m.; now it'll air sometime next season. "Roseanne" and "Ellen" repeats will air in its place. ABC has not introduced a new hit all season, but ABC Entertainment president Ted Harbert isn't worried. "We have the luxury of time," he says. "We reshoot pilots all the time. We just wanted to get the best show we could."

Around the dial

■ FOX "won't ever" have a traditional half-hour evening news broadcast like the Big Three do but will launch a newsmagazine by the end of the year, says FOX chief Rupert Murdoch.

■ The dream lives on for Bill McCuddy, the Baltimore advertising writer plucked from obscurity last year to host his own talk show on the America's Talking network. McCuddy, 37, whose one-year hosting duties on "Break a Leg" are nearing an end, has signed a three-year deal to co-host Talking's morning show, "Wake Up America."

■ Valerie Perrine ("Lenny") guests as the mom of Dr. Susan Lewis (Sherry Stringfield) on the May 11 episode of NBC's "ER," directed by Oscar winner Quentin Tarantino.

— From Sun News Services

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